

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman, House Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member, House Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

As the House Ways and Means Committee considers the reauthorization of Title IV-B, we, the 225+ undersigned organizations who represent and support America's children and their parents and caregivers, are writing to urge the inclusion of H.R.8798 *the Promoting Community Based Prevention Services Act*, led by Reps. Mike Carey (R-OH-15) and John Larson (D-CT-01), which would establish a federal definition for Family Resource Centers (FRCs). FRCs provide direct assistance to families through parenting support and education, screening and navigation of care services, mental health and family counseling, early learning and afterschool activities, family financial planning, home-based services, kinship care assistance, and workforce supports. However, currently, FRCs are not defined in federal law, complicating congressional efforts to invest in these effective supports. Therefore, we urge you to include HR.8798 within the Title IV-B Reauthorization package and move it through Committee.

States have invested in more than 3,000 Family Resource Centers across the nation as a proactive solution to prevent child welfare system involvement and support kinship and permanency, and research shows that they have been successful. By strengthening families first, FRCs reduce child welfare involvement by 63% in their communities.¹ For every dollar invested, FRCs provide a \$4.93 total return on investment and \$3.65 savings specific to the child welfare system.^{2,3} The programs offered by FRCs are provided through the center without regard for families' ability to pay and are developed to reflect the specific needs and interests of the communities served. These programs are proven to lead to positive outcomes across the family, including gains in economic self-sufficiency, educational success, health, social support, family functioning, resiliency, and child nurturing.⁴

FRCs are already an allowable use under Title IV-B Parts 1 and 2, but further investments in FRCs are currently hampered by the lack of an FRC definition in federal law. Clarity on a definition will support state efforts to strengthen families via community and school-based essential services. America's parents and caregivers deserve the stability and robust support needed to help their children thrive, and H.R. 8798 will ensure they are given this opportunity. We urge you to include this language within the Title IV-B reauthorization.

Sincerely,

National

National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Family Resource Center Coalition
National Family Support Network
Zero to Three

Alabama

Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers
Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers
Chambers Co Council for Neglected &
Dependent Children & Youth, Inc.
Child Care Resource Center

¹ OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Community Partnership Family Resource Center, Teller County, CO.

² Community Services Analysis LLC. (2014). Social Return on Investment Study.

³ OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Westminster Family Resource Center, Orange County, CA

⁴ Family Pathways & CFSA 2.0 Evaluation Report - Executive Summary 2019.

Coffee County Family Services Center
Elmore County Family Resource Center
Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of
Child Abuse, Baldwin County
Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of
Child Abuse, Mobile
Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of
Child Abuse, Mobile County
Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of
Child Abuse, Robertsdale
Family Services Center, Huntsville
Family Services Center, Madison County
Family Services of North Alabama, Blount
Family Services of North Alabama, Cherokee
Family Services of North Alabama, DeKalb
Family Services of North Alabama, Etowah
Family Services of North Alabama, Jackson
Family Services of North Alabama, Marshall
Family Services of North Alabama, St. Clair
Mary Hill Family Service Center, Dale
Mary Hill Family Service Center, Ozark
Troy Resilience Project
Tuscaloosa's One Place

Arizona

AZCEND, Gilbert
AZCEND, Maricopa
Carol Lopinski & Associates, Gilbert
Carol Lopinski & Associates, Maricopa
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
WRIC

California

Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods
Changing Tides Family services FEC
Child Guidance and Development Company,
LLC
Community Bridges, Monterey County
Community Bridges, Santa Cruz
Compass Family Services
Edgewood Center
Evolve Youth Services, Arcata
Evolve Youth Services, Humboldt
First 5 Mendocino
GLIDE
Instituto Familiar de la Raza
Kernville USD
La Raza Community Resource Center
Laytonville Healthy Start Community & Family
Resource Center, Laytonville
Laytonville Healthy Start Community & Family

Resource Center, Mendocino
Mendocino Coast Children's Fund
Nuestra Alianza de Willits
Nurse Family Partnership
Raíces y Cariño Family Center, Santa Cruz
County
Raíces y Cariño Family Center, Watsonville
Redwood Community Services, Medocino
County
Redwood Community Services, Ukiah
SAY San Diego
Shields for Families
South of Market Child Care, Inc.
Sycamores
The California Family Resource Association
The Child Abuse Prevention Center
Visión Family Resource Center

Connecticut

Bristol FRCs
East Hartford Public Schools
Fox Run School Norwalk
Killingly Public Schools, Killingly County
Killingly Public Schools, Windham County
Laurel FRC
Plainfield Family Resource Center, Plainfield
Plainfield Family Resource Center, Windham
Putnam Family Resource Center
Family Resource Center, Fair Haven
NHBOE Family Resource Centers
CT FRC Alliance
East Hartford Public Schools
East Haven Family Resource Center/Alliance
NHPS Family Resource Center
Putnam Family Resource Center
Stratford Parents Place
West Haven Family Resource Center

Delaware

Children & Families First, DE

Florida

Champion for Children Foundation of Highlands
County
Children's Home Society of FL, Palatka County
Children's Home Society of FL, Putnam

Georgia

Building Connections, LLC
Lumpkin County Family Connection
Ser Familia, Inc,

Iowa

Iowa Family Resource Collaborative

Illinois

Sinnissippi Centers, Sterling
Sinnissippi Centers, Whiteside County
Spanish Community Center, Kantakee County
Spanish Community Center, Will County

Indiana

Geminus
Firefly Children & Family Alliance

Maine

Maine Children's Trust

North Carolina

Children's Home Society
Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of
Child Abuse of North Carolina, Inc. (The
Parenting PATH)
Fairgrove Family Resource Center
Family Resource Center South Atlantic
Family Service of the Piedmont, Inc.
Fiesta Cristiana
Kellin Foundation
McDowell County Schools
Positive Childhood Alliance NC
Swain County Family Resource Center

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Children's Trust

New Jersey

Acenda Integrated Health

Nevada

Ron Wood Family Resource Center

Ohio

East End Neighborhood House, Inc., Cleveland
East End Neighborhood House, Inc., Cuyahoga
County

Texas

Houston Strong Children Services
SAFE, Travis
SAFE, Williamson
STARRY, Inc., Archer County
STARRY, Inc., Bell County
STARRY, Inc., Bosque County

STARRY, Inc., Clay County
STARRY, Inc., Collin County
STARRY, Inc., Comanche County
STARRY, Inc., Cooke County
STARRY, Inc., Coryell County
STARRY, Inc., Delta County
STARRY, Inc., Eastland County
STARRY, Inc., Erath County
STARRY, Inc., Fannin County
STARRY, Inc., Georgetown
STARRY, Inc., Grayson County
STARRY, Inc., Hamilton County
STARRY, Inc., Hood County
STARRY, Inc., Hopkins County
STARRY, Inc., Hunt County
STARRY, Inc., Jack County
STARRY, Inc., Lamar County
STARRY, Inc., Lampasas County
STARRY, Inc., McLennan County
STARRY, Inc., Montague County
STARRY, Inc., Rains County
STARRY, Inc., Rockwall County
STARRY, Inc., Shackelford County
STARRY, Inc., Shackelford County
STARRY, Inc., Somervell County
STARRY, Inc., Stephens County
STARRY, Inc., Williamson County
STARRY, Inc., Wise County
STARRY, Inc., Wichita County
STARRY, Inc., Young County
TexProtects
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
Unity Partners dba Project Unity

Utah

Utah Family Strengthening Network

Washington

Akin
Amara, King County
Amara, Pierce County
Amber Empowering Resilience, Aberdeen
Amber Empowering Resilience, Grays Harbor
County
Community Resource Center of Stanwood
Camano
Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center, Long
Beach
Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center, Pacific
County
Encompass NW

FamilyWorks
First Step Family Support Center, Clallam
County
First Step Family Support Center, Jefferson
County
Foster First
Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center, Friday
Harbor
Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center, San
Juan County
Lopez Island Family Resource Center, Lopez
Island
Lopez Island Family Resource Center, San Juan
County
Mary's Place, King County
Mary's Place, Seattle
Neighborhood House, King County
Neighborhood House, Seattle
Northeast Youth and Family Services
Orcas Community Resource Center, Orcas
Island
Orcas Community Resource Center, San Juan
County
RISE Network, Ferry County
RISE Network, Pend Orielle County
RISE Network, Stevens County
Southwest Youth and Family Services, King
County
Southwest Youth and Family Services, Seattle
Take the Next Step, East Snohomish County
Take the Next Step, Monroe
The Nest, FRSC
The ZONE at Northeast Community Center
Washington Gorge Action Programs, Klickitat
Washington Gorge Action Programs, Skamania
Well Being Youth and Family Resource Center
YWCA, King County
YWCA, Snohomish County
YWCA, Seattle
Help Me Grow- Skagit Family Resource Center
The Moore Wright Group, Aberdeen
The Moore Wright Group, Grays Harbor County
North Counties' Family Services
OIC of Washington
Parent Trust for Washington Children
Take the Next Step, Snohomish County
Volunteers of America Western Washington
Birth to Three of Chippewa County
Children's WI, Rock County FRC
Children's WI, Rock County FRC, Janesville
Children's Wisconsin

Chippewa County DHS
Supporting Families Together Association
Supporting Families Together Association
Washington Family Support Network

Wisconsin

4C For Children Family Center of Washington
County, Washington County
4C For Children Family Center of Washington
County, West Bend
ADRC, Chippewa
ADRC, Chippewa Falls
Bay View Community Center
Birth to Three of Chippewa County
Burnett County Family Resource Center, Inc.
Child Care Partnership a program of Western
Dairyland
Child Care Resource Center & Referral
Childcaring, Inc., Central WI
Children's Wisconsin, Rock County FRC
Children's Wisconsin, Janesville FRC
Chippewa County Birth to Three Program
Chippewa County Department of Public Health
Chippewa County Human Services
COA Youth & Family Centers, Milwaukee
COA Youth & Family Centers, Riverwest
Family Connections, Platteville
Family Connections, Sheboygan County
Family Resource Center, Eau Claire
Family Resource Center of Sheboygan County
Family Support Center, Chippewa County
Lakeland Family Resource Center
Northwest Connection Family Resources
Rehab Resources
River Source Family Center, Chippewa County
River Source Family Center, Chippewa Falls
Supporting Families Together Association
The Parenting Network
The Parenting Place, La Crosse County
The Parenting Place, Monroe County
The Parenting Place, Vernon County